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Letter dated 12 September 2008 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the letter dated 26 August 2008 which I received from Mr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring this communication to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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Annex

On behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I have the honour to express my appreciation for the role played by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), authorized under Security Council resolution 1386 (2001) of 20 December 2001 and subsequent resolutions, for the wider contribution that the United Nations is making towards security and stability in Afghanistan.

The International Security Assistance Force, led by NATO since August 2003, has been crucial in improving security initially in Kabul. Its programme of phased expansion in the north, west, south and east of the country, which is very important, has played a key role in this regard.

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan welcomes the proposal that ISAF should continue to operate in Afghanistan until the national security forces are fully able to provide security to our nation. The Government of Afghanistan is grateful to all those nations contributing resources to ISAF and to those nations that have assumed a leadership role.

I hope the Security Council will continue to reflect in its resolutions the paramount importance of fulfilling the ISAF mandate.

(*Signed*) Rangin Dadfar **Spanta**
Minister for Foreign Affairs